



October 1997

VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

Vol. 7 No. 10

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ✓ ✓ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

Voting Information Center from 50 Countries

Call the VIC Toll-free From Overseas

The DoD Voting Information Center (VIC) is now connected to the Federal Voting Assistance Program's toll-free numbers listed on page 4 of this newsletter. Upon dialing these numbers a caller is given the opportunity to either enter the automated VIC or connect directly with the FVAP office.

The VIC contains information from incumbent members of the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, State Governors and State Chief Election Officials. Each of these individuals has been invited to leave a message on the VIC for citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act*.

In addition, after hearing the recorded voice message from one of the above officials, VIC callers are given the opportunity to forward their call directly into the office of the official.

Unit Voting Assistance Officers as well as individual members of the Uniformed Services and citizens residing outside the United States may also connect directly with their Service or State Department Voting Action Officer for assistance in receiving materials or Service-specific absentee voting information.

Approximately 60 days before an election for Federal

office (President/Vice President, U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives) or State Governor, candidates for these offices are invited to leave a recorded message. These recordings are essential for *UOCAVA* citizens who need the names of candidates on the ballot or further

information on candidate issues to assist in their absentee voting decision process.

The VIC is utilized via telephone and can be operated through the use of a touch-tone phone or speech recognition prompts. In order to gain access to their state, the caller is required to use the state code which is the official two-letter abbreviation used when mailing a letter. Each number on a standard telephone key pad corresponds to particular letters of the alphabet. As not all telephones have the lettering indicated on the key pad, the following should be used when calling the VIC: 2 - ABC; 3 - DEF; 4 - GHI; 5 - JKL; 6 - MNO; 7 - PRS; 8 - TUV and 9 - WXY.

Since there is no "Z" on the phone pad, for Arizona, use the number two (2) for "A" and one (1) for "Z".

If a caller is using a rotary phone or calling from overseas they may opt for the Speech Recognition prompts to access the VIC. Upon reaching the system, the caller should hold during the opening menu until prompted to make a vocal choice. Each menu must be listened to entirely and a beep must sound (see **VIC**, p. 2)



In This Issue

Voting Information Center	p. 1
98-99 Guide in Distribution	1
Change to Slogan Contest	
Winners	2
"To Do" List for VAOs	2
Toll-free Numbers	4

Also available at www.fvap.gov

1998-99 Voting Assistance Guide - Where To Get It

Distribution of the 1998-99 *Voting Assistance Guide* began the week of October 27, 1997. The *Guide* is the most critical tool available to Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) for guidance in assisting citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*. The latest edition has been updated to incorporate changes to state voting laws since the 1996-97 edition was printed. (see **VAG**, p. 3)

Change to Slogan Contest Winner

The Federal Voting Assistance Program's 1997 Voting Slogan Contest winning slogan, "Feel the POWER ... VOTE!" cannot be used because the theme is proprietary with an existing entity. This supersedes the information provided in the September VIN.

As a result, the official winners of the 1997 Voting Slogan Contest are as follows. Chief Hospital Corpsman Romualdo V. Cabal, U.S. Marine Corps submitted the winning slogan, "VOTE TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW!"; Staff Sergeant Maloney, U.S. Army, submitted the Second place slogan, "Freedom Still Has Responsibility ...VOTE!"; Lieutenant James & Marsha Elliott, U.S. Coast Guard, submitted the Third place slogan, "Your Honor. Your Privilege. Your Duty. Vote."; Mr. Darryl "DSHON" Shon, a civilian working for the Pearl Harbor Federal Credit Union submitted the Fourth place slogan, "THE VOICE OF AMERICA, IS THE VOICE OF 'YOUR' VOTE."; and Major Maureen Massey, U.S. Air Force submitted the Fifth place slogan, "Building A Nation ... One Vote At A Time".

The two slogans selected by the judges for Honorable Mention are: "Speak Up! Speak Out! Vote!" submitted by Lynne D. Fox, the Uinta County Clerk in Evanston, Wyoming; and "DECLARE YOUR INDEPENDENCE - VOTE!" submitted by Ms. A. Patricia Cronin, the Secretary to the Consul General at the Consulate in Casablanca, Morocco. Many of the other exceptional slogan entries are featured in the 1998-99 Voting Assistance Guide.

The FVAP regrets any confusion or errors this change may have caused. Questions regarding this issue may be addressed to the Federal Voting Assistance Program using the contact information below.

(VIC, from p. 1) before speaking. The caller will be prompted to identify their state just as a touch tone caller would. However, speech recognition callers simply say the number which corresponds to the number on the key pad. For example, for information on the state of Texas, the caller would say the word "eight" and then "nine" which correspond to "T" and "X" respectively on the telephone key pad as listed above.

Whether using the touch-tone pad or speech recognition, the Main Menu on the VIC is as follows:

Option "One" gives the caller specific state information. From the state menu callers may hear messages from the officials listed above and connect directly into the office of the officials. This selection also allows the caller to hear up-to-date information about elections for federal offices and gubernatorial elections in their state as well as the names of and recorded messages from the candidates for those offices.

Option "Two" allows callers in the Uniformed Services and overseas citizens to connect with their Service or State Department Voting Action Officers (see VIC, p. 4)

Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month

[] Visit the FVAP's Web site at www.fvap.gov. The 1998-99 Voting Assistance Guide is now available there. Also, check out the on-line versions of this news letter and FVAP news releases.

[] Released on October 17, the 1998 - 1999 Voting Action Plan, coordinated by this office and signed by the Secretary of Defense, contains a plan for giving voting assistance during elections occurring in 1998 and 1999. Each military service and federal agency employing overseas citizens will have their own version of the plan in place by the end of the year. Contact your Service or State Department Voting Action Officer (at www.fvap.gov, through the VIC or using the contact information on page 3) for a copy.

[] Double check your supply of the Federal Post Card Application (four for each person you are responsible for) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (at least one for each person you are responsible for), keeping in mind family members.

[] Plan your 1998 voting orientations early enough so that those citizens in states with early primary elections can fully take part in the democratic process.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Voting Information News provides information for citizens and Voting Assistance Officers and is published monthly by the staff of the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

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Phone

(703) 695-0663
(800) 438-8683
DSN 225-0663

Voting Information Center

(703) 693-6500
DSN 223-6500
Toll-free Numbers



Fax

(703) 693-5507
DSN 223-5507



Internet

vote@fvap.gov
<http://www.fvap.gov>

Note: Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.

(Guide, from p.1) While the “hard copy” distribution began in late October, the on-line version of the *Guide* is already available at the FVAP’s site on the World Wide Web at www.fvap.gov.

The *Guide* features a state-by-state breakdown of procedures for requesting registration and a ballot, primary and general election calendars as well as guidelines for VAOs to follow in carrying out their responsibilities. **It is critical that all Voting Assistance Officers obtain a copy of the 1998-99 Guide (Publication ID# 9899 VAG) no later than January 1998.**

Below is an outline of *Guide* procurement procedures to be followed by the branches of the Uniformed Services and overseas organizations, including the Department of State. It is important for VAOs to follow the guidelines for procuring the *Guide* specified by his or her organization (remember to include family members when determining required quantities.) In all cases, the *Guide* should be available to VAOs no later than December 1997.



Army VAOs must request the *Guide* (9899 VAG) from the U.S. Army Publications Center in St. Louis, MO, after determining the number needed, usually one for every eighteen eligible citizens in the unit, including family members.

Navy VAOs are automatically supplied the *Guides* (9899 VAG) by their regular supply center.

Air Force VAOs can obtain the *Guide* (9899 VAG) from the base-level Publications Distribution Office (PDO). If no base-level office is available, *Guides* will be shipped to the Command level office. Additional supplies can be requested via the unit Customer Account Representative (CAR) using order number “VAG 9899.”

Marine Corps VAOs who have not already requisitioned the *Guide* (9899 VAG) should do so from the Marine Corps Publication Distribution System. The books will be shipped to MCLB Albany, GA for distribution.

Coast Guard VAOs are automatically supplied with the *Guides* (VAG 9899) by the DOT Initial Distribution Section (IDS) M-443.2 in Landover, MD.

VAOs at U.S. Embassies and Consulates will receive copies of the *Guide* from the State Department’s Voting Action Officer in the Bureau of Consular Affairs. Instructions on how to order additional supplies of all voting assistance materials will be forthcoming.

Overseas U.S. Citizen Organization VAOs can obtain copies of the *Guide* directly from the FVAP using the contact information provided on page 2.

State Department: Office of American Citizens Services

Voting Action Officer: Mr. Patrick Hegerty **tel:** (202) 647-6060 **tel FTS:** 8-647-4994, **fax:** (202) 647-6201

Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532
E-mail: feazellt@hoffman-emhl.army.mil

Dept. of the Navy: Lt. Stephanie Nordhoff **tel:** (703) 693-0816, **toll-free** (800) 368-5056 **tel DSN** 223-0816,
fax (703) 693-6471, **E-mail:** p662c2@bupers.navy.mil

Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 652-7849, **toll-free** (800) 558-1404 **tel DSN:** 487-7849,
DSN fax 487-5982, **Commercial fax** (210) 652-5982 **E-mail:** lowrancj@hq.afpc.af.mil

Marine Corps: Major Perdue **tel:** (703) 696-2026 **tel DSN:** 426-2026, **fax:** (703) 696-2068, **fax DSN:** 426-2068

U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Reggie Sealey **tel:** (202) 267-2239, **fax:** (202) 267-4823
E-mail: rsealy@comdt.uscg.mil

All of the above can be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP WEB Site <http://www.fvap.gov>

(VIC, from p. 2) Officers (SVAO) for questions regarding supplies or information on how to contact a local unit or installation Voting Assistance Officer. The SVAOs operate on Eastern time except for the Air Force SVAO who operates on Central time.



Option "Three" gives a brief view of non state-specific voting news and information to include upcoming elections for Federal office, basic instructions for completing the Federal Post Card Application and requirements for use of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, as well as up-to-date information on other FVAP products and services.

Option "Nine" takes you back to the main menu from any point in the system and Option "Zero" connects you directly with the FVAP office. Give the VIC a try today - then tell your family members and friends!

Ombudsman Service

The FVAP's Ombudsman Service is there to assist you with absentee voting concerns which can not be resolved locally.

Individuals can contact the service by regular mail, e-mail and fax using the contact information on page 2 of this newsletter or telephone using this list of toll-free numbers. These numbers can be used to directly access the Voting Information Center (active 24 hours a day) and FVAP office personnel (answering machine during non-business hours, Eastern time.)

In the U.S. 1-800-438-8683

Antigua	1-800-326-0220
Australia	0014-800-128509
Bahamas	180-995-09-20
Bahrain	800-621
Barbados	800-534-2104
Belgium	078-111-455
Bermuda	800-623-0077
Brazil	000-811-926-5585
Canada	800-995-0920
Chile	00-020-3071
Colombia	980-12-0896
Costa Rica	0-800-011-0125
Denmark	800-10-169
Dominican Rep.	800-751-7131
Finland	9800-156-284
France	0-800-900-156
Germany	013-081-9277
Greece	008-001-22-586

Hong Kong	800-6984
Hungary	00-800-11-158
Ireland	1-800-557-083
Israel	177-102-4012
Italy	1-678-72-444
Indonesia	00-800-1-923-3685
Japan	0031-11-2429
Liechtenstein	1-155-4514
Luxembourg	0-800-2499
Malaysia	800-2170
Mexico	95-800-010-1438
Monaco	0-59-00-156
Netherlands	06-022-2499
Neth. Antilles	001-800-753-0767
New Zealand	0-800-44-0799
Norway	800-12093
Panama	0083-28027-4197
Philippines	1-800-116-0009
Portugal	0501-8-13-035
San Marino	1-678-72-444
Singapore	800-1300-210
South Korea	0078-14-800-0203
Spain	900-93-1108
Sweden	020-793-503
Switzerland	0-800-894-514
Taiwan	0080-10-3153
Thailand	001-800-1-1-923-6685
Trinidad&Tobago	1-800-934-7340
United Kingdom	0-800-895-7403
Uruguay	000-411-923-7985
Vatican City	1678-72-4444

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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